Our next meeting will be Monday, March 9 at 8 PM -- at our usual meeting place, Trinity Hall, Carlow College, 3333 Fifth Ave., Oakland.

Guest speaker will be Dr. John E. Rawlins of the Dept. of Invertebrate Zoology of The Carnegie. Take your choice for a title -- "Relationships between Plants and Lepidoptera in W. Pa." or "Tales from a Caterpillar Hunter's Notebook".

How is this for a coincidence? As I am typing this, on the evening of February 21, I am also watching a program on WQEX on the many weapons plants use in their battle with insects...mostly caterpillars.

WESTMORELAND CONSERVANCY

Paul M. Brown has sent us information on the Westmoreland Conservancy. This newly established organization is attempting to preserve as a natural area a 56 acre parcel of land near Murrysville known as the Kellman Farm property. The goal is to raise $150,000 in the next several months.

Individual membership = 10.00
Family membership = 15.00
Or make a donation of $20 or more, which includes one year's membership. Send to --
Westmoreland Conservancy
3333 Roadsgate Drive
Murrysville, PA 15668

TO BETTE, EDIE, JEAN --

Thanks for the reports on your botanical travels. We will definitely print them in "Wildflowers" just as soon as space permits.

REWAVE THE IDEAS OF MARCH

Why? That's when I type up a new batch of envelopes for the mailing of "Wildflowers". According to Walt's latest membership list, there are 30 members who haven't paid their 1992 dues. If you are one of these, the numeral 15 appears before your name on the present envelope. Please don't make me be the one to cut you off our list. It would be the unkindest cut of all. Et tu, Brute!

FIELD TRIPS

In planning field trips, I'm learning that there is no dearth of sites to visit, endless species to match to these sites, but not enough Saturdays to accommodate them all. I'm also learning that many, of our members have shared locations and have led field trips. I am grateful that they are continuing to contribute and are helping me to meet my goal, which is to please everyone -- at least once. If you have a special need, have a constructive comment, or have an idea, write it down and send it to Jeanne.Poremski, 2236 Hayson Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15216, or call 412-343-6546.

March 23 -- FRANKFORT SPRINGS and RACCOON CREEK

Starting Time -- 12:00 noon

Leaders - Carl Patsche, Esther Allen

Directions: Meet at Frankfort Springs parking lot. From downtown Pittsburgh, take the Parkway West and then U. S. 22 West to the exit for Route 18. Turn north on Route 18 and follow this two-lane highway north for 5.0 miles to a well-marked gravel parking area on the left margin of the road.

Expectations: Bundle up and come out for an exciting trip that will cure cabin fever and officially begin our season with a great learning opportunity. The ravine cut by the stream is rich with non-flowering plants, and Mr. Patsche has agreed to help us identify the great array of mosses which should be sporing at this time. This is a very easy walk. Then we will drive across the park to the Wildflower Reserve to try to catch snow trilliums, harbingers of spring and any other early spring wildflowers.

April 4 -- NO TRIP SCHEDULED

April 11 -- SETTLERS CABIN PARK: BALDWIN ROAD

Starting Time: 1:30 PM

Leader - Jeanne Poremski

Directions: From Pittsburgh, take the Parkway West and exit at Campbell's Run Road. Turn left onto Campbell's Run and left again between the Texaco and Bishop's. Drive up the hill (do not re-enter the Parkway) and proceed right through the four way intersection. From the intersection,mark .8 miles to E. L. Shepard Elementary School, where we will meet in its lot. From Routes 22-30, take the exit to Old Steubenville Pike in Tonidale; turn left and drive a few yards to a right turn onto Mobay/Ridge Road. Drive through Miles Corp. (previously Mobay) and past that dark entrance for .8 miles. Turn right at the four way intersection and proceed .8 miles to the lot of the E. L. Shepard Elementary School. Shepard School is on McMichael Road, although there are no signs to identify it.

Expectations: This first trip to a new site will net us some of the early spring wildflowers, but its highlight is a very dense stand of round lobed hepaticas in its entire color range. This site holds highlights at other times of the year and I hope that the group can explore and help plan trips for the future.

March 1992